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PLACE

Agricultural Conditions in Shantung

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land redistribution in Shantung has cassed the period of violent liquidations, but denunciations continue to mark the frequent meetings of the Peasants' Association. Individuals so denounced are forced to applicate publication of their real or imagined crimes against the meanle.

- Taxation in 1949 proved to be an insupportable burden on the farmer. The tax rate was set at 20 percent of the estimated yield of the land, the remainder to be retained by the tiller. Agricultural production in Shantung was only 20 percent capacity, because of the lack of seed and fertilizer and the conscription of able-bodied men into the Liberation Army. The grain tax was combuted on the estimated production, which meant that the entire grain outbut went for taxes, and the constant mutual checking in rural communities made it difficult to avoid payment.
- Prior to October 1949 large quantities of Shantung grain were shipped to l'anchuria. People were told that this grain was to be bartered for industrial machinery and railway equipment from Russia. The resulting shortage of Shantung grain proved to be too great, however, and the Communist authorities stopped the shi ments. Since October 1949 foods affs, including rice, have been shipped into Shantung from Manchuria. Since Manchuria is not a rice producing area*, vecole in Shantung wondered where the rice had originally come from, while others suspected that they were getting back the same grain they had been forced to send to Manchuria.
- One of the conditions upon which expropriated land was given to poor peasants was that each family receiving land should send one able-bodied merber to the army. In cases where this impressment deprived the family of its productive laborers, it was stipulated that the neighbors should provide aid during its busy seasons.

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Comment. The Manchukuo Yearbook lists the rice production of Manchuria as 648,000 metric tons in 1940.

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